

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084456

FOL NEW DELHI 4516 SENT ACTION SECSTATE GENEVA INFO BOMBAY
CALCUTTA MADRAS MARCH 22, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4516

E.O. GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC

SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REF: A. STATE 072085, B. GENEVA 3851, C. STATE 43054

1. WE INTEND TO REVIEW OUTCOME OF 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WITH MEA OFFICIALS NEXT WEEK AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ADDRESSEES CAN PROVIDE FURTHER TO REFTELS ON INDIAN ROLE AT 34TH UNHRC. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE INTERESTED IN
--OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS (SUGGESTED REF C) BETWEEN US AND INDIAN DELEGATIONS ON INDIAN PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MACHINERY, AND EXTENT OF ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS PROPOSAL BY OTHER DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE NON-ALIGNED;
--ANY INDICATIONS OF INDIAN FLEXIBILITY ON THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PROPOSAL;
--WHETHER WE WERE ABLE TO CONCUR IN INDIAN REQUEST FOR RECIPROCAL SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES FOR SUBCOMMISSION ON PROTECTION OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 084456

MINORITIES (BOTH OF WHOM WERE ELECTED);
--DEGREE OF INDIAN PROMOTION OF A MORE EVEN-HANDED UNHRC TREATMENT OF COMPLAINTS, AS UNDER 1503 PROCEDURES;
--WHETHER INDIA TRIED TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE ON RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN APARTHEID ISSUES.

2. SINCE WE WILL ALSO BE TALKING WITH MEA ABOUT UPCOMING KABUL AND BELGRADE NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER INDIA RETAINED A LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THE NAM MEMBERS AT THE HRC, AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE INDIAN DELEGATION SEEMED TO COORDINATE-- OR COME IN CONFLICT WITH --THE CUBANS, THE NEXT NAM CHAIRMEN. (WE NOTE THAT REF B PARA 18 DOES NOT LIST INDIA AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH TOOK LEAD IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN OPPOSITION TO SOVIET-CUBAN ARGUMENTS.)

3. SINCE AMBASSADOR ALSO PLANS TO CALL ON MRS. PANDIT, LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW THE EXTENT TO WHICH MRS. PANDIT WAS PERSONALLY ACTIVE AT SESSION AND WHAT HER IMPACT MAY HAVE BEEN. GOHEEN UNQUOTE COOPER

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